

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL

SUBJECT: US STRENGTH IN EUROPE

USNATO HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING ITEM FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPER
SUMMARY, MONDAY, APRIL 21 TRANSMITTED VIA TELEGRAM:

BEGIN TEXT: FINANCIAL TIMES US EDITOR PAUL LEWIS:

.THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
DEPLOYED IN EUROPE TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE, SO LONG AS
THE NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES REMAIN AT LOGGERHEADS
IN THEIR VIENNA TALKS ON A MUTUAL AND BALANCED CUT IN
EUROPEAN FORCE LEVELS. THIS IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE
ESSENTIAL MESSAGE SENT TO CONGRESS IN A CLASSIFIED
REPORT JUST SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE.....

THE REOORT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS
WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THE NATO COUNCIL IN RECENT WEEKS.
IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE NEED FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FORCE AS
OLD SYSTEMS ARE REPLACED BY NEW.

HOWEVER, TNE AMERICANS HAVE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT ANY
SUBSTANTIAL UNILATERAL CUT-BACK IN THEIR TACTICAL NUCLEAR
COMMITMENTS AT THIS JUNCTURE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
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WOULD DISTURB OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. THE REPORT

THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR SYSTEMS IN EUROPE SHOULD BE MOST CAREFULLY WEIGHED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

THIS OPENS THE DOOR TO THE WEST OFFERING SOME REDUCTION IN THESE WEAPONS AS PART OF A MBFR AGREEMENT THAT WOULD REDUCE EACH SIDE'S OVERALL FORCE LEVELS IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION - AND THERE ARE IMPORTANT VOICES IN FAVOR OF THIS APPROACH IN THE US ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, NATO HAS NOT YET DECIDED TO IMPROVE ITS MBFR OFFER IN THIS WAY, AND THE VIENNA TALKS HAVE JUST ADJOURNED FOR THREE WEEKS WITH LITTLE PROGRESS TO REPORT...:END TEXT
RICHARDSON

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